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W. E. H.

An

Inaugural Dissertation

On

Idiopathic Dyspepsia

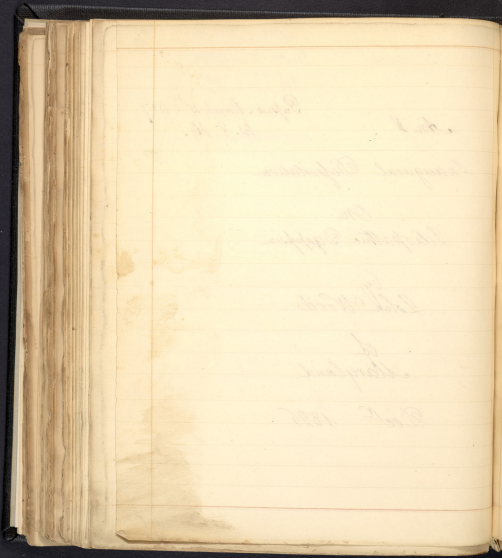
by

John Woods

of

Maryland

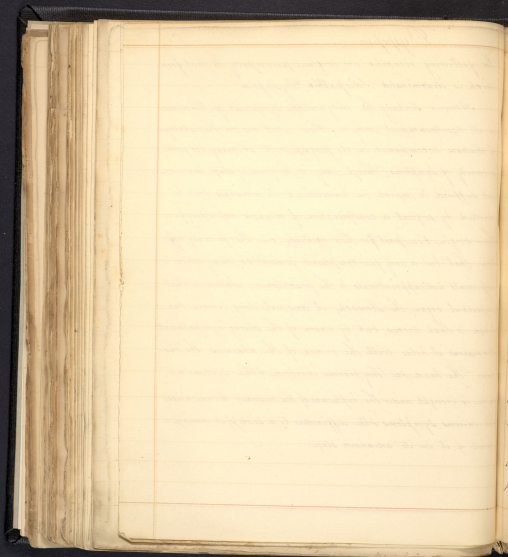
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Dyspepsia

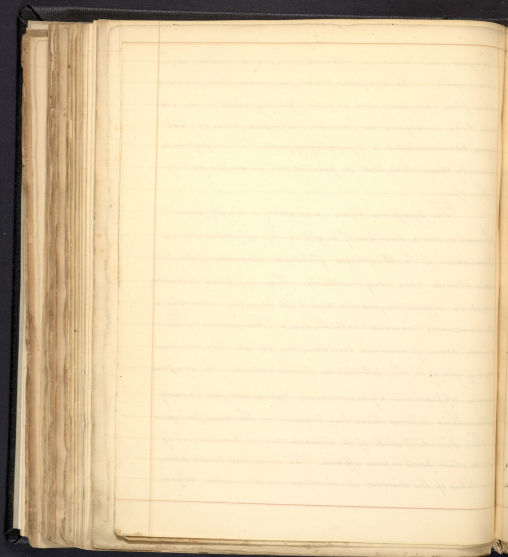
The following remarks are confined principally to that form which is denominated *Idiopathia Dyspeptica*.

However striking the diagnostic symptoms of this disease in its commencement may be, there is not one on the Catalogue of diseases accompanied in its progress with so many & so great a variety of symptoms; though easy in the forming stage to remove yet suffered to march on unchecked, its advances will be marked by so great a complication of diseases depending from their origin & in part for their existence on the primary affection, that but a very few complaints present so many embarrassments & disappointments to the practitioner. Situated in that important organ, the Stomach, it does not long remain confined to that viscus, but by reason of the strong sympathetic connexions it holds with the viscera of the abdomen, the Thorax - the head &c. they become involved & the system at large is brought under the influence of the disease; hence arise the various symptoms & the difficulties to a successful management of it in its advanced stage.

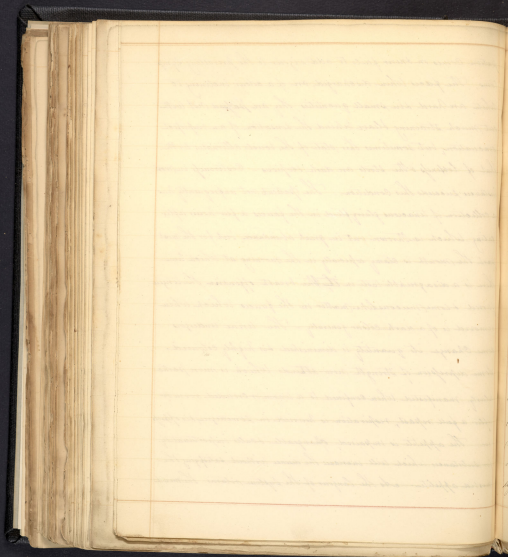


Dyspepsia may be defined, difficult or depraved digestion as the term implies. The symptoms which first make their appearance arise from indigested food or other offending matter in the stomach & the subsequent ones from an impression made on that organ & communicated to sympathizing parts. The impression is made by cause which will be pointed out in another part of this essay.

The symptoms which immediately or directly present themselves are a sensation of weight in the epigastric region constriction of the Oesophagus flatulences distention of the stomach & bowels, acid & sooty excretions. These symptoms however may exist in different degrees & be more or less transitory according to circumstances connected with the case. The patient by the rigorous course of abstinence & exercise may obviate their recurrence but yielding to the solicitations of the stomach the symptoms again appear & in a great measure aggravated, particularly when their returns have been frequent or the cause powerful. This disordered state of the stomach does not continue long before other parts become affected, The intestinal canal soon partakes of the disorder, its secretions are diminished, consti-

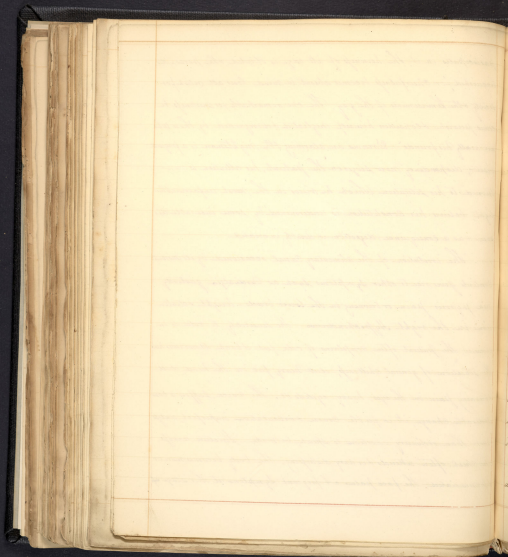


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pation comes on & never fails to add vigour to the prevailing symptoms. The faeces when discharged, are of a colour inclining to white, are hard & in small quantities. They are passed not without much straining & leave behind the sensation of an imperfect evacuation, but sometimes this state of the bowels alternates with that of looseness & the stools are dark & copious - Costiveness in most instances succeeds this condition. The patient not unfrequently has a collection of tenacious glairy fluid in the fauces a few hours after eating which is thrown out in great abundance, but for the most part the mouth is clammy especially in the morning at which time there is a disagreeable taste in ~~the~~ the breast, offensive. The tongue furrowed & some mucous-like matter in the fauces which when removed is of a dark colour generally. The urine undergoes some change its quantity is diminished, is highly coloured. Some depression of strength now attends which is more particularly manifested when confined to a warm or crowded room or after a full repast, respiration is hurried in some degree & is oppressive. The appetite is impaired, changeable & easily importunately for substances which will increase the disease without satisfying the morbid appetite. As the languor of the system returns, the mind



participates in it, the enjoyment of its edge is blunted & the former dis-
tinguished for cheerfulness becomes absent in mind. Loss all relish for
society & the amusements of the gay. The one remarkable for moroseness be-
comes peevish & considers himself neglected & disregarded by those who
are really his friends. Dreams an alarming & the nightmare is a frequent
visitor, despondency now seizes on the patient, his attention is re-
turned to his situation which he views in the most unfavorable
light, believes his Constitution is undermined by some incurable dis-
ease & as a consequence dejection is doubly increased.

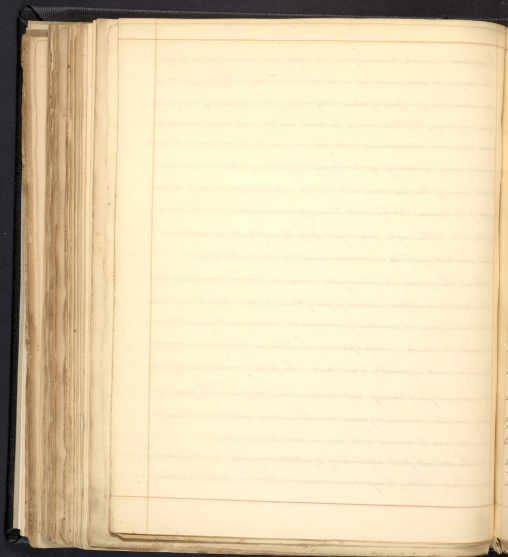
The irritation of the alimentary Canal occasioned by its period-
ic contractions gives rise to other symptoms such as Cardialgia, gastrody-
nia, pyrosis, pain or burning in the lower bowels - bright & disten-
tion in the right Hypochondrium. The sensibility to cold is in-
creased. The patient often complains of cold feet & back. Sometimes has
the sensation of general shivering, dull heavy feet in the head, dull
& burning pain in the eyes, heavy eyelids &c. The voice suffers a con-
siderable change, it is feeble, coarse & articulation imperfect, and
more than ordinary caution is required to speak, be made. Motion across
the chest often attends his very sleeping, the body becomes more or
less emaciated, the face pale, & a frequent symptom at this stage of



Dyspepsia is much increasing in the right side when lying on the left.
The tongue in some instances is covered with a floss. The skin becomes
dry shrivelled & is often affected with itching & a scaly eruption. Vertigo dys-
pnea dry cough & palpitation of the heart are frequent distressing symp-
toms & are often accompanied with an irregular pulse & pain in the right
or left side. Tenderness of the Epigastrium is a symptom concurrent
with some of the last mentioned & forms a prominent mark of the pro-
gress of the disease. The lips & is tenderness from pressure over the shield
of the ribs of the right side & fulness of the right Hypochondrium
but this last symptom is sometimes present in the earlier stage.

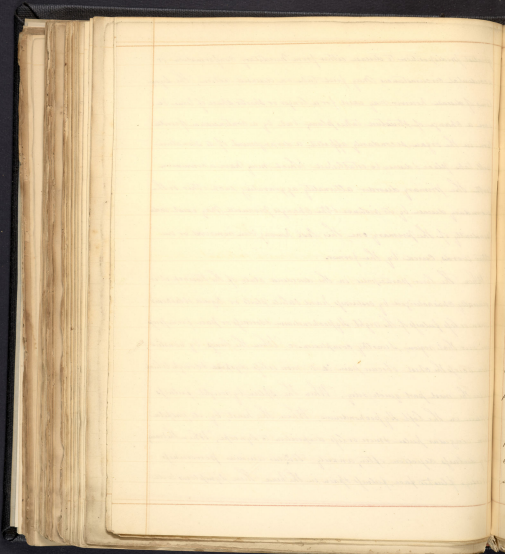
About this period the blood vessels become involved in morbid action.
The patient henceforth subject to fits of chilliness now has those of heat.
A flushed face or sensation of burning in it, burning in the eyes, tortuous
arteries, giddiness, fulness & pain in the head are of frequent occurrence
usually much aggravated by full meals. The pulse is accelerating, quick
& has some degree of tension but readily yields to pressure. The pulse is
easily excited, excessive, requiring more than usual action, or diminished.
The approach of evening will induce some febrile action.

If the distant parts affected by sympathizing with the stomach such
as the liver, spleen, lungs, head, brain &c. that one which has the



greatest predisposition to disease either from hereditary conformation or accidental circumstances may first take on diseased action. The symptoms of disease however may exist for a longer or shorter space of time before a change of structure takes place but by a continuous irritation in the organ secondarily affected, a derangement of its structure will take place & disease be established, which may have a connexion with the primary disorder, alternately aggravating each other or the secondary disease by its violence & the changes produced may exist independently of the primary one, this last having been removed or in other words, cured by the former.

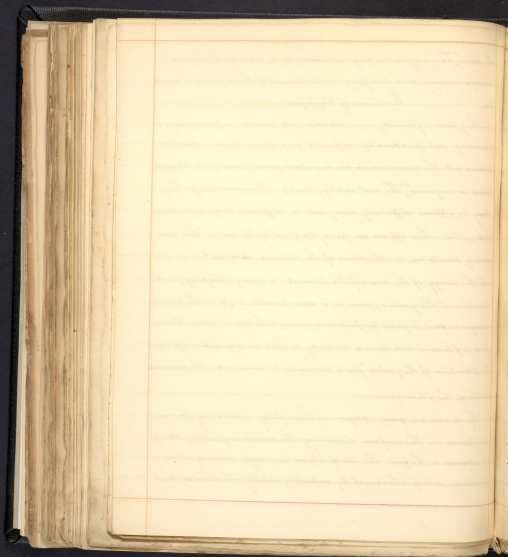
When the liver participates in the disordered state of the stomach it is generally characterized by costiveness, hard & white stools or liquid black ones, more or less fulness of the right Hypochondrium, soreness or pain from pressure over that region, Scurvy complexion &c. When the lungs, by contraction across the chest obscure pain is felt, more or less dyspnoea & cough which is for the most part quiet & dry. When the spleen by weight, fulness & pain in the left Hypochondrium. When the heart, by its palpitation, irregular pulse & more or less disposition to syncope. When the brain by deranged secretion, often anxiety, various delirium, pericranial vertigo, flushed face, fulness & pain in the head. These symptoms will



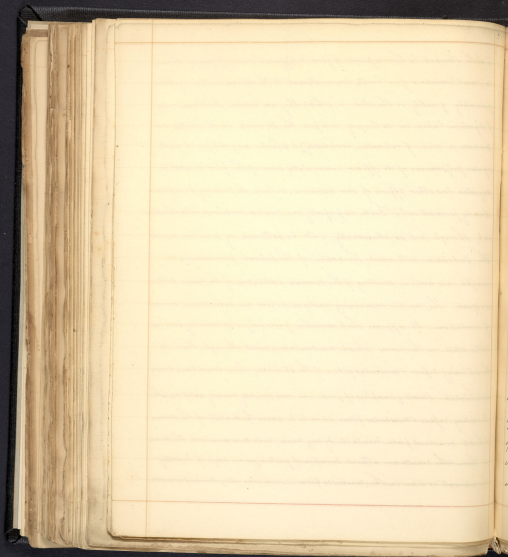
He more, ^{or less} depending according to the state of the stomach
always becoming more distressing as the disorder of that organ is increased.
The Causes of Dyspepsia

They have generally been divided into somatic or predisposing
fever, but no advantage appears to arise from such a division
because all the causes which are considered predisposing, are when ap-
plied in a greater ^{degree}, the real exciting causes. Moreover though they
may be applied differently, they may act in different ways to produce
indigestion. Their effects are pretty uniformly the same. They create
debility, irritation in the nerves of the stomach ~~involuntarily~~ cannot
so the energy of the nerves of the stomach is always necessary for the
secretion of the gastric juice in a state suitable to effect the proper
changes on food, & requisite for perfect digestion. Whatever impairs this ne-
cessary influence will have a tendency to alter in a greater or less degree
the secretion of the gastric fluid & likewise to diminish the muscular
power of the stomach.

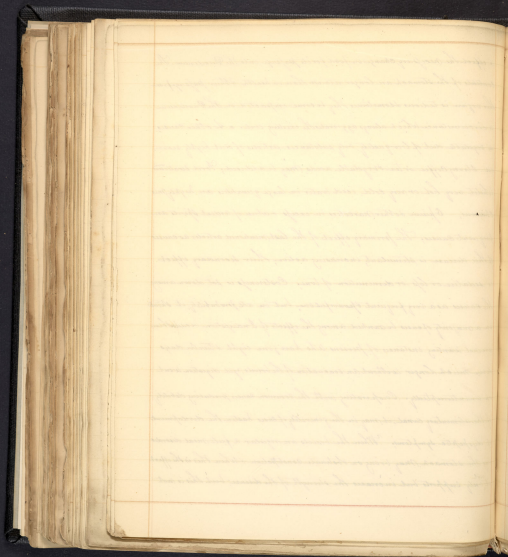
The causes are grief, anger, intense study, sedentary life, impurities on the surface obstructing the cutaneous function, etc long continued to the feet, the use of laces in excess, either by chafing or smothering, all of which act by impeding debility, & inflammation cause



The stomach is the receptacle of food & different kinds of dishes. These in most instances give birth & nourishment to the disease either by their quantity, quality or the state in which they are taken. Substances easy of digestion taken in so largely as to pass the stomach, on the stomach will produce a state of relaxation or debility which disqualifies it for the regular performance of its office, consequently some of the food will not be digested & as other effects of over distention we have the primary symptoms already pointed out. Food imperfectly masticated & retained in the stomach, though not so abundantly, will be followed by similar results. The substance will persist. The action of the solvent, fermentation is brought into action, swelling of the contents distention of the viscous follows as effects. The matters remaining undigested are an additional source of irritation. It appears that distention gives origin to debility & irritability state in the nerves which are communicated through them to the secretory vessels & muscular fibres of the stomach, these conditions being established. Small quantities of food are not readily easily acted on. The secretory vessels & muscular fibres seem to be under the control of the nerves which rendered pale & irritability by any cause will communicate the same to them. The results are altered secretion of gastric juice & loss of healthy movement or tone in the muscular fibres conditions altogether unfavorable.



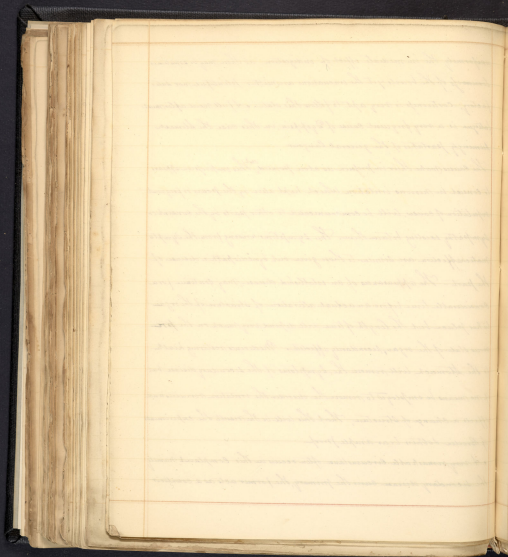
to effect the necessary changes in food for its passage into the Duodenum. The contents of the stomach are longer retained than in health. Their passage from this organ is tedious sometimes they become impacted in the Duodenum a circumstance which always aggravates the existing evil. As other causes, a vegetable diet of low quality, oily substances articles of diet highly seasoned, strong coffee, &c. & vegetable acids, may be adduced, Food swallowed whilst very hot or very cold, iced water in large quantities are highly prejudicial. Opium & other narcotics in excess & abuse of ardent spirits are frequent causes. The primary effect of the last mentioned articles as causes of this disease is stimulant, increasing action. Their secondary effect is sedative or less or diminution of tone. Costiveness is put down among the causes as a very frequent & powerful one, but in all probability, it should in a majority of cases be ranked among the effects of Indigestion. I recollect an odd wanting instance of persons who have gone eight & ten days seven much longer without an evacuation of the bowels, yet digestion went on uninterrupted. Cooperating with the common cause, producing debility, of the alimentary canal, it may in the generality of cases hasten the development of dyspeptic symptoms. When the bowels are irregular a functional disordering the stomach may bring on obstinate constipation & when this is the effect it ^{not} only supports but increases the strength of the disease; but this is not



uniformly the immediate effect of indigestion as there may be sometimes
lowness of the bowels, yet the evacuations are neither plentiful, nor satis-
factory; costiveness is very apt to follow this state. A full meal after much
fatigue is a very frequent cause of Dyspepsia, in this case the stomach
suffering partakes of the general languor.

The causes make their impression as above pointed ^{out}, this impression appears
to consist in nervous irritation which kept alive by the power or frequent
repetition of causes, will be communicated to other parts by the consent or
sympathy existing between them. The symptoms arising from the dyspeptic
maturation are similar to those given out by idiopathic disease of
the part. The appearance of an established disease may continue for a
considerable time before an actual alteration of structure of the organ
takes place but the length of time will depend very much on the pre-
vious state of the organ, secondarily affected. Medicines restoring health
to the stomach will remove the symptoms of the secondary disease, but
if no means be employed to remove the disorder the irritation remains and
effects a change of structure, that this will be the result the experiments
of Brodie & others bear ample proof.

A very remarkable circumstance often occurs in this complaint, namely
the secondary disease causes the primary, the former acts as a counter-

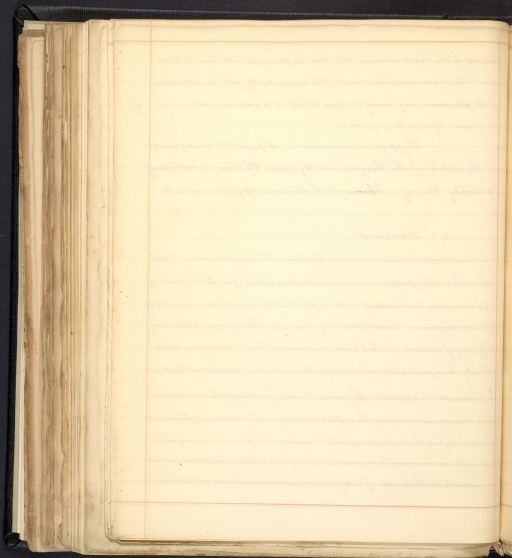


relates to the latter species this, tho' the stomach is the seat of the dis-
ease & the organ on which most of the causes directly act, an alteration
of its structure very rarely happens, whilst it is a common occurrence
in organs sympathizing with it.

Dyspepsia terminates in Hepatitis, derangement
of the spleen or the lungs termed Dyspeptic Phtisis, in a Mesenteric
atrophy Dropsy, Schismus of the stomach & pyloric orifice &c.

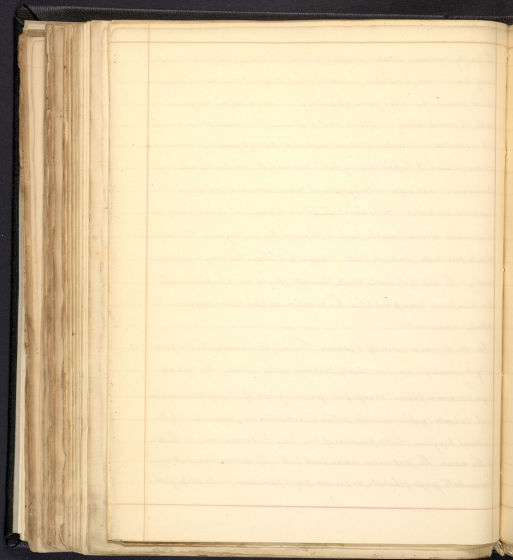
Treatment

As the stomach sometimes is more or less loaded with irritating matter the first
step in the curative process is to remove them with a view to effect this an emetic of
Spice water may be administered & after its operation the bowels should be evacuated by
Rhubarb, Magnesia or Rhubarb & Elix. or by Stenna alone. These sometimes purgatives destroy
the property of evacuants but that which communicates to me is the stimulant cause
& thereby the digestive powers are improved. The use of saline cathartics at this stage
is objectionable, as appearance they increase the existing debility of the stomach & thus
tend to render more disturbing the suffering condition. As a retentive of the feces at
Rheuma beyond the usual period for their discharge will produce a return of the dis-
ease if it has been removed or render it worse if still subsisting gentle means should
be resorted to for the purpose of keeping up regular discharges such articles as consist



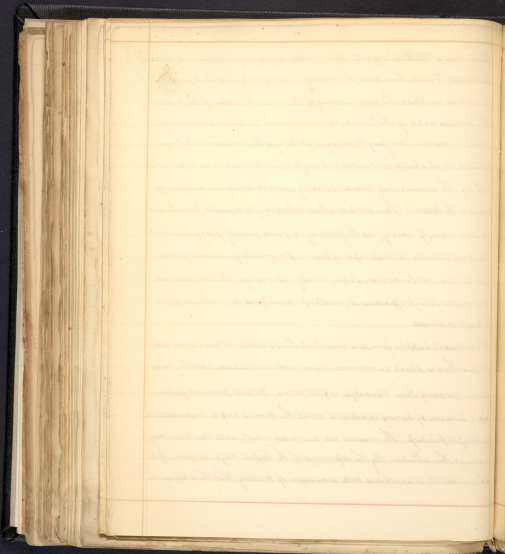
the healthy movements of nature should be promoted. The best and the preparations for
purify denominated *stercoraria peroxidans*, which consist of also *rhubarb* *stercoraria*
leaves gentian &c. & to a gentle aperient a combination of sulphur & magnesia is ad-
vantageous, it corrects acidity & its action is not confined to the intestines & their contents
but is extended to the surface & the vessels of the skin. Acidity is generally removed by these
above remedies but the patient is very liable to returns of it from the slightest irregu-
larity & as it is an unfavourable symptom it cannot be removed too speedily. When
indicated an emetic or cathartic or both should be given, but under ordinary cir-
cumstances recourse must be made to correctors they are Magnesia *Ammoniacum*
or *mithridaticum*, prepared *Chalk* *alabaster* &c. Of these *Chalk* may be a choice ac-
cording to the state of the bowels. *Chalk* *Ammoniacum* should have a preference when
there is too much looseness but when this condition does not obtain Magnesia & the
alabaster answer better.

In the common case of Dyspepsia there may be considered the prepara-
tory measures for an other class of medicines called Tonics. The best are
hops *chamomile* *flowers* *orange peel* *gentian* *ginger* of the vegetable kingdom
but *Colombo* *argemone* in some certain circumstances very serviceable. Of the
mineral kingdom the preparations of iron hold the foremost rank at this stage
of the disease. The preparation which suits best is the subcarbonate in some
nation with ginger *Stibiacum* or the iron may be administered in the shape of *Chalk*



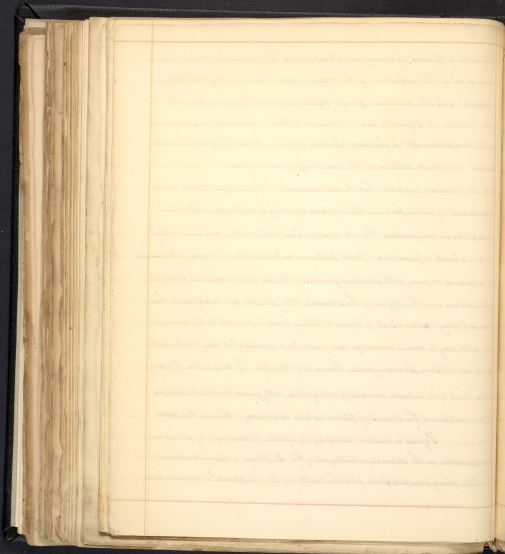
lybrate wine. With the expletive bitter a little spirit may be added as it enables the stomach to retain them both, more certainly & more speedily promotes digestion, but in all cases in which the extreme debility of this organ the nature of the medicine of the previous state of the patient do not require it the spirit should not be used & when it has been necessary to employ it, as soon as the medicine can be borne without it, it should be omitted, not only because its continuance impairs the tone of the stomach but because it forcibly invites to indolent excesses injurious to the patient. There are some articles which may be considered preternatural in some degree of acidity, as the following a small quantity of magesia a few flavours almonds a leaf or two of lemon a few cracked ground nuts a little spirit wine or laudanum taken directly after eating. The last mentioned preternatural though efficacious is nevertheless mischievous in its ultimate effects & should be avoided.

Sometimes it happens from some cause that the symptoms are much aggravated & when there is such an occurrence tonics must be laid aside & at first an antacid. As one of them Cardiazia is first noticed. Its most prominent feature is a sensation of burning & constriction about the cardiac orifice connected with sickness & faintness. The remedies are an emetic (mild) with some water, magesia or the alkalis. By the experiments of the English Chemists & some of the Americans it is ascertained with some degree of certainty that the acid in the



Stomachs of persons labouring under Dyspepsia, is the mucous & its excessive distension of the parietal coat of this organ & deeper erosions & decay of the latter are imputed. As this acid has a stronger affinity for soda than for either of the other alkalies it should be used in preference to them. Soda may be administered with Compound Infⁿ of Cassia & Tinctⁿ of opium, or in the form of the sodic powder, or a weak solution of the bicarbonate may be given.

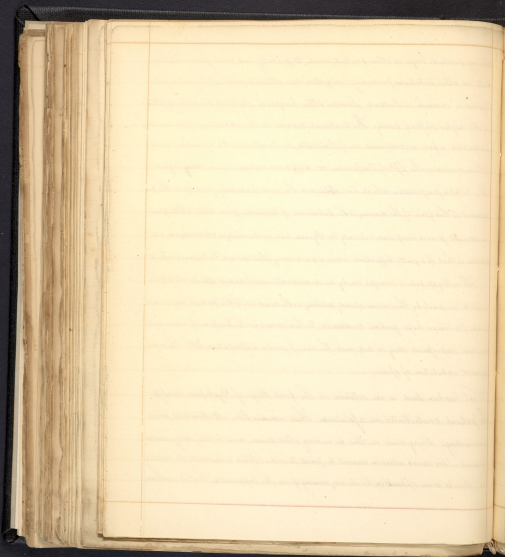
A more critical symptom than the one mentioned is Gastrodynia which is distinguished by intense pain in the stomach affecting that organ with other symptoms of indigestion. For its removal lime water & milk, magnesia or chalk pills should be prescribed. Water sweetened as hot as it can be borne to the amount of a pound or more, will sometimes give ease. Much is to be expected from hot applications over the region of the stomach & they should not be neglected when means fail. Aether & Tinctⁿ of opium & blisters must be resorted to. Opium in any form may be used to advantage as a much larger quantity of it may be taken in the dry form without producing nausea than in any other state. The preparation of kinking pills does not is a valuable corrector of acidity & has justly gained much reputation as a preventative of the above symptoms as well as a remedy to them in their milder forms. Pyrosis is another distressing symptom, characterized by pain resembling sensation in the stomach extending along the Oesophagus, a copious discharge of a white glairy sinapic fluid from the mouth &c. It is supposed to originate from



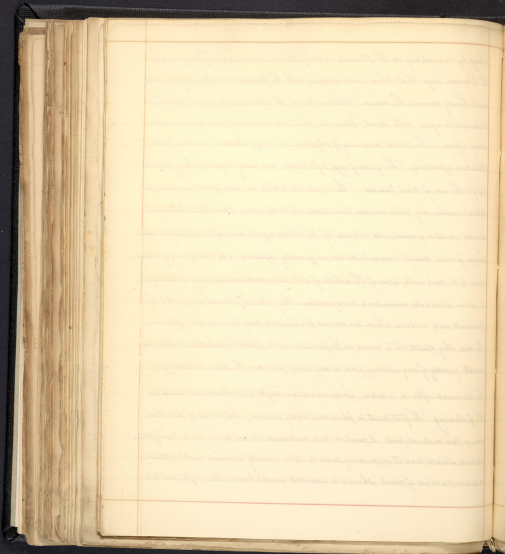
feeding suched beef, or other pulsed meat, it probably does arise from that, as well as other substances producing indigestion & an altered action of the gastric juice. Dyspepsia is endemic in Iceland, Sweden & the heights of Scotland & is generally found in the higher classes of society. The treatment consists in the exhibition of an emetic purgative a few or continued use of stimulation or the alkalies. If it does not give to these remedies the eff of Terebinthine or Hoffmann's anodyne liquor being begun. The metallic preparation which has obtained the most conspicuous success in the management of this form of the disease, is the subnitrate of Bismuth given with a little gum of Sassafras. It proves beneficial not only in Dyspepsia but in Enteritis & Nephritis, its action is that of a gentle diffusive tonic & is a remedy that can not be too much valued.

When Dyspepsia is brought on by an immoderate use of animal spirits it is to be treated in part by the means already detailing, as the condition of the patient may warrant using for tenies hops gentian cordials &c. & then means for the purpose of removing the morbid impressions may be employed the use of garlic affluatada & the occasional exhibition of opium.

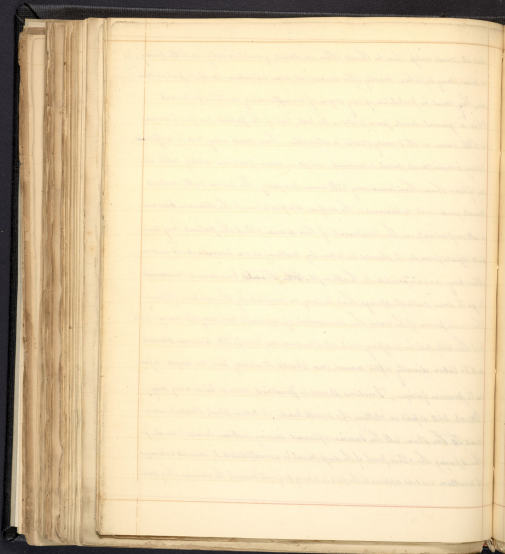
What has been said is in relation to the first stage of Dyspepsia surely the patient contributes his assistance. These remedies like all others will prove unavailing. Every case in this as in every other disease must be diligently guarded against. Too much attention cannot be paid to diet. Which is decidedly the best diet yet there is some opposition to its use arising from the supposition that it decreases



chief by coagulating in the stomach, a belief which does not appear ^{to be} well founded.
Dr. Barrow says that when milk disagrees with the patient it is a proof of its acidity
as it thereby promotes the disease. Whatever may be the opinions respecting it (which will
be found to agree with most stomachs when other articles of diet may have a con-
trary effect. The meats most easy of digestion are beef, mutton, venison, hare,
chicken, &c. &c. The yolks of eggs soft boiled are easily digested & may be directed
as for the use of most patients. The vegetables which are admissible are Irish po-
tatoes roasted, dry toast or stale bread, both with butter, rice, chocolate, blauded al-
monds roasted, ground, Mule, Morrah tea to which a good deal of spirit should be added,
soups, fruits, desserts, cream butter &c. are generally injurious. & the indigestion is some-
times to be met with, some of the articles of diet, not recommended, may be beneficial
in some stomachs, under such circumstances they should be allowed as a part of the
patient's diet, or some which are advised for his food may have an evil effect in
his case, they should not be forced on the patient, but he should be permitted to use a con-
siderable quantity of any article of food he may select, provided the same does not offend
the stomach after it is eaten. Some regulations ought to be observed at meals, as
the following. The food must be plain and highly seasoned, not to eat of more than
one or two dishes at once, it must be well masticated, never to eat in a hurry, the
patient should bear it in memory never to take exactly as much as the appetite
calls for, no kind of drink should be admitted except water & this ought not to be

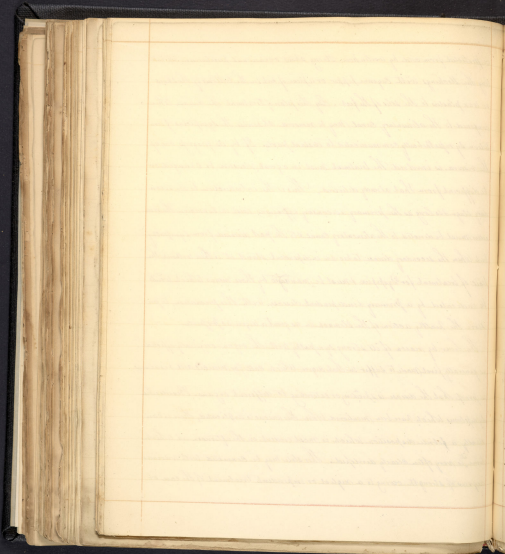


and at meals unless then to thirst often in small quantities only - a little brandy
or lemon may be taken directly after dinner but some restriction must be put on their
use. They must be prohibited if any degree of an inflammatory diathesis be present.
For a general drink pure water is the best, but if the patient has been tempted
a little wine or its brandy & water is allowable. Three meals a day will be sufficient.
Sitting between meals must be avoided, unless in cases of extreme debility when eat-
ing oftener than three times a day will become necessary. The warm bath will do
much good and disengage the surface & impart tone to the stomach. Exercise
is all important in the treatment of this disease & that the patient may derive
full effects from it it should be taken by walking or on horseback or in some
other way accommodated to his strength. ~~He~~ ^{He} should be advised & encouraged
to go to some suitable spring, that he may be benefited by the curative of travelling.
The tonic power of the water the amusement of agreeable company & pleasing spots
but this will not be necessary until all other resources have failed. Exercise should
not be taken directly after dinner. Nor should it at any time be urged so far
as to produce fatigue. Frictions should be practiced once or twice every day -
Much will depend on clothing of a suitable kind. A cotton shirt should be worn
next to the skin all the summer & flannel during autumn & winter - most of
the spring the other part of the dress must be accommodated to season & change
of weather. As cold applied to the feet is a very frequent cause of the disease they must

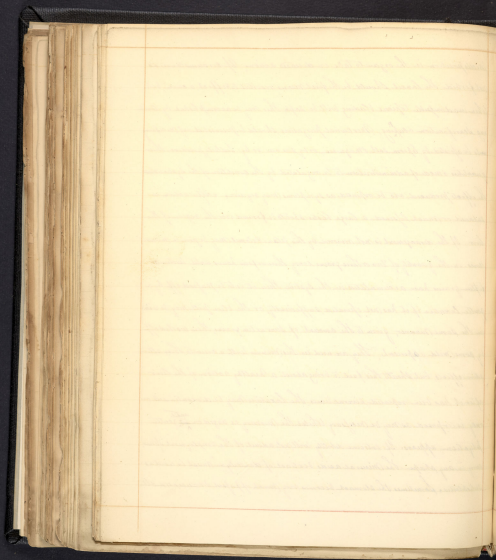


or protected form and by certain heat. Strong shows occasional puritism sprinkling the stockings with cayenne pepper or a piece of bat in the bottoms of the shoes or wax plaisters to the sole of the foot. By this plan of treatment the disease when confined to the alimentary canal may be removed. Likewise the symptoms of irritation by sympathy communicated to distant parts. If by its progress one of the viscera is involved the treatment must in a great measure be changed or be different from that already delivered. This is the introduction to the secondary stage so long as the primary & secondary affections exist in connexion the remedies must be directed to the alimentary canal & to the part diseased from sympathy but when the secondary disease takes an independent stand it is then without the pale of treatment for Dyspepsia & must be managed by those means which would be indicated by a primary & independent disease. With this precaution to preserve the healthy action of the stomach in as great a degree as possible.

The liver by reason of its strong sympathy with the organ originally affected is generally first made to suffer in that degree which calls for medical aid & is always a proof that the disease is spreading or extending to different organs. Besides the symptoms which have been mentioned when this viscus is implicated, there is constantly a febrile disposition which is most evident in the afternoon at which time it is very often clearly developed. This state may be connected with various degrees of strength, owing to a neglect or imprudent treatment of the case or

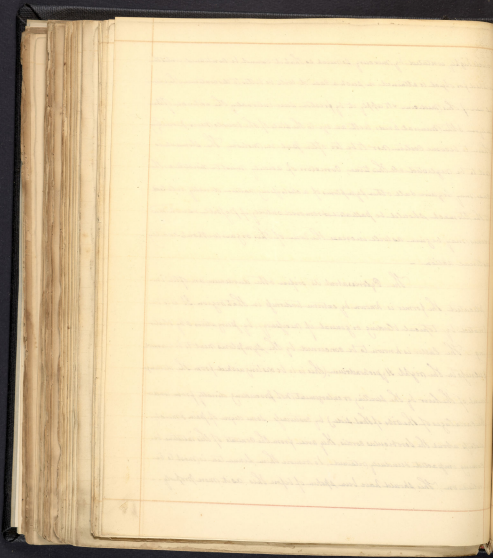


propensity in the organ to take on disease action. If circumstances do not forbid the latter should be the first means resorted to effect a cure, but when in a doubtful temper bleeding will be safe. This may be accomplished by leeching, scarification, cupping. The arterial pulsations should be proscribed, if necessary to be assisted by Opium salt & Magnesia or by sin. na. or by suddenly procuring their quantities mode of administration to be regulated by the condition of the system and the effects produced not to be regarded as symptoms may require. After action is subsided or much lessened a large blister should be formed over the region of the liver. If the derangement is not removed by this plan Calomel may be given in minute doses in the quantity of two or three grains every three or four hours until twelve or fifteen grains have accumulated in the system then it is to be purged off by a gentle laxative if it has not operated sufficiently, or the blue pill may be used in the same manner, given to the amount of four or ten grains, then worked off by some mild aperient. They are used in this manner with a view to their alterative effects, but should this fail to bring about a healthy action of the liver after it has been repeated several times the laxatives may be discontinued or only interposed as may be necessary whilst the Mercury is used ^{until} gentle ptyalism appears. If extreme debility will not admit of the employment of Mercury in any shape the Mucous acids & decoct. of chauliogr. must be used as substitutes, sometimes the stomach becomes very much oppressed & nauseated & the



bowels highly irritated by mercury so much so that it cannot be continued until the wished for effect is attained in such a case it will be better to discontinue the salivary use of this medicine & to apply it by friction since internally the extract often delays & the mineral acids, with an eye to the state of the bowels never permitting them to become costive nor to be too often forced into action. The stomach is not to be neglected at this time, correction of acidity must be directed as the case may require & all other symptoms of a disordered system directly related to the stomach should be palliated & removed entirely if possible & such measures may be given as will increase the tone of this organ without exciting morbid action.

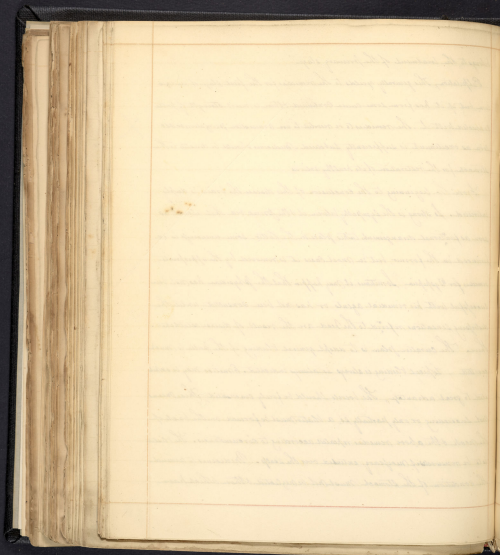
The Oxyenteritis its origin & the duodenum are often implicated. The former is known by extreme tenderness in that region. It is to be treated by topical bleeding or general if necessary, by purgatives & by blistering. The latter is known to be concerned by the symptoms next to be named & fulness in the right Hypochondrium (this is to be distinguished from the distension of the liver by the swelling or enlargement not proceeding directly from under the costal edges of the ribs of that side) by continuing some degree of pain & much distress about the Sternum & coracis, they arise from the contents of this intestine becoming impacted & secondarily retained, to remove them Purgation is most to be relied on. This should have been spoken of before this as it more properly.



belongs to the treatment of the primary stage.

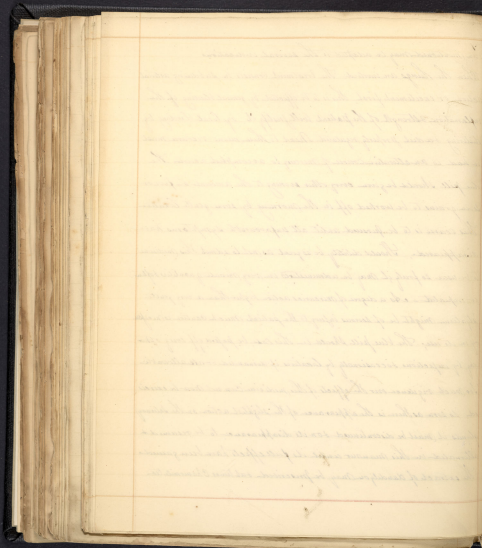
Palpitation. This generally yields to the remedies for the first stage of indigestion, but if it has from some cause continued, there is much strength of pulse connected with it. The remedies to be resorted to are a cessation purgatives &c. &c. soon as excitement is sufficiently subdued. Medicines should be directed to the stomach, for the restoration of its healthy action.

From the beginning to the conclusion of this disease the brain is deeply interested. So strong is the sympathy between it & the prime vcs. that almost as soon as functional derangement takes place in the latter, some morassing is experienced in the former, but in most cases it is removed by the appropriate remedies for Dyspepsia. Sometimes it may happen that the physician has not been successful with his remedial agents, or has not been consulted until the distressing sensations referred to the head are the result of disease established there. The curative plan is to adopt general bleeding if the pulse is much excited. Topical bleeding is always indicated. Stimuli may be exhibited to great advantage. The bowels should be freely evacuated. This means not exceeding or only partially so, a blister must be formed on the back of the neck & the above remedies repeated according to circumstances. The blister is to be removed if necessary, extended over the scalp. Medicines to amend the condition of the stomach must not be neglected & those which have



been mentioned may be adopted to the several indications

When the lungs are involved. The treatment consists in subduing arterial action or excitement first. This is to be effected by general bleeding if the inflammation & strength of the patient will justify it, by local bleeding by blistering & a diet properly regulated. Should these means recourse must be had to an alterative course of mercury to accomplish a cure. The blue pill should be given every other evening to the amount of five or seven grains to be worked off in the morning by some gentle laxative. This course is to be pursued until all unfavourable symptoms have disappeared. Should debility be so great as not to admit this medicine to be used so freely it may be administered in very minute quantities often repeated - as a degree of mercurial action higher than a very gentle ptyalism might be of serious injury to the patient. Much caution is necessary in its use. The blue pill should in this case be purged off every other day by injections & occasionally by laxatives if demanded or otherwise. Too much vigilance over the effects of this medicine can not now be exercised, so soon as there is the appearance of the slightest action on the salivary glands it must be discontinued & on its disappearance to be resumed & alternated in this manner until its full effects have been gained. The extract of dandelion may be prescribed & at times Chamaemelum.



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To each infusion of gentian or orange peel, three as follows are required not only
on account of the genuine feelings of the patient, but of the debilitated
state of his stomach which yet prevails & becomes increased by medi-
cine or any other cause will add much to the violence & duration of the
symptomatic disease. Having by these means sapiently the disorder from the
lungs a course of such medicines must be continued on as will improve the gen-
eral health.

